

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, and the specification and claims 1-14 are amended. Claims 1 and 8 are amended to recite features supported in the specification on page 27, lines 18-24, and claims 5 and 12 are amended to recite features supported in the specification on page 32, lines 6-17. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claims 1-14 based on informalities. Claims 1-14 have been amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Claims 1-14 Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Japanese Patent Application JP 2000-162959 to Moriya (identified in the Office Action as “Koji”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Moriya does not teach or suggest an information supply system including information generation means which generates information used to perform a multi-player game, wherein variations in a story are based on a selection input by a player, supply means which supplies the generated information to the terminal device, and acquisition means which acquires the selection input by the player through the terminal device, wherein the multi-player game is an individual selection input type of game wherein different responses are output in correspondence to selection inputs, wherein the information generation means generates first game information allowing a first selection input by a first player when a first event requiring a first selection input by the first player occurs in the game, the first game information based on a first selection authority flag indicating that the first player has selection authority, first

response information corresponding to the first selection input by the first player acquired by the acquisition means based on a first response completed flag indicating that the first selection input is completed, second game information allowing a second selection input by a second player when a second event requiring a second selection input by the second player occurs in the game, the second game information based on a second selection authority flag indicating that the second player has selection authority, and second response information corresponding to the second selection input by the second player acquired by the acquisition means based on a second response completed flag indicating that the second selection input is completed, and wherein the supply means supplies the first game information to a first terminal device operated by the first player, the second game information to a second terminal device operated by the second player, and the first and second response information to the first and second terminal devices of the first and second players, respectively, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited for a program in claim 8.

Instead, Moriya discloses a simulation server 37. In particular, Moriya teaches a database function manager 100 providing scenario data passed through an optimization unit 101 and a selection function manager 102. Moriya further teaches scenario changes based on inputs from two or more client terminals at data input units 103 provided through a network 109, or from an e-mail table 108 (paragraphs [0020] – [0025] and drawing 7 of Moriya). Thus, Moriya lacks any teaching or suggestion for flags denoting whether players have selection authority and whether an input response is completed, as provided for in Applicant's claimed features.

Further, there is no motivation to modify features related to the simulation device of Moriya to achieve Applicant's claimed features, particularly regarding the responses to authority selection and response completed flags, nor has the Office Action established sufficient motivation for a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Even assuming that motivation

to modify the applied reference is established, the modification fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed features.

The Office Action further rejects claims 5-7 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Moriya in view of Japanese Patent Application JP 2000-022827 to Kimura (identified in the Office Action as "Keisuke"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Moriya and Kimura fail to teach or suggest an information supply system to supply information used to perform a multi-player game terminal device based on a selection input by a player, including information generation means which generates the information used to perform the multi-player game, supply means which supplies the generated information to the terminal device; and acquisition means which acquires the selection input by the player through the terminal device, wherein the multi-player game is an individual selection input type of game wherein different responses are output in correspondence to selection inputs, wherein the information generation means generates first game information allowing a first selection input by a first player when a first event requiring the first selection input by the first player occurs in the game, the first game information based on a first selection authority flag indicating that the first player has selection authority, first response information corresponding to the first selection input by the first player acquired by the acquisition means based on a first response completed flag indicating that the first selection input is completed, second game information allowing a second selection input by a second player when a second event requiring the second selection input by the second player occurs in the game, the second game information based on a second selection authority flag indicating that the second player has selection authority, and second response information corresponding to the second selection input by the second player acquired by the acquisition means based on a second response completed flag indicating that the second selection input is completed, and wherein the supply means supplies the first game information to a terminal device operated

by the first player, the second game information to a terminal device operated by the second player; and the first and second response information to the first and second terminal devices of the first and second players, respectively, as recited in claim 5, and similarly recited for a program in claim 12.

Kimura does not compensate for the deficiencies of Moriya outlined above for claims 1-4 and 8-11. Nor does Kimura teach, disclose or suggest the additional features recited in claims 5-7 and 12-14, particularly with respect to simultaneity of first and second player inputs. Instead, Kimura discloses a communication system includes judgment. In particular, Kimura teaches a mutual communication to play “janken” (paper, scissors, rock) between migration (mobile) machines 2A, 2B, etc. in a network 1. Also Kimura teaches a judgment center 4 to assess victory or defeat based on a lottery table in section 43 (paragraphs [0024] – [0026] and [0031] – [0032] of Kimura). Such teachings fail to provide for simultaneous inputs, or for default inputs when the players exceed a predetermined period for responding to an event, as provided for in Applicant’s claimed features.

Further, there is no motivation to combine features related to the simulation device of Moriya with the lottery table of Kimura, nor has the Office Action established sufficient motivation for a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Even assuming that motivation to combine the applied references is established, the combination fails to teach or suggest Applicant’s claimed features.

A *prima facie* case of obviousness for a §103 rejection requires satisfaction of three basic criteria: there must be some suggestion or motivation either in the references or knowledge generally available to modify the references or combine reference teachings, a reasonable expectation of success, and the references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See MPEP §706.02(j). Applicant asserts that the Office Action fails to satisfy these requirements with Moriya and Kimura.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that the independent claims are now patentable over the applied references. The dependent claims are likewise patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Consequently, all the claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:
Petition for Extension of Time
Abstract

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